

## I CLAIM:

1. A vending machine, comprising  
a product bin for storing articles, disposed above a secure compartment,  
a dispensing chute in communication with a neck, the dispensing chute  
being accessible to a user and the neck being movable substantially vertically within  
the product bin,  
a mouth movable between a capturing position and a dispensing position,  
to be respectively in communication with articles the product bin and with the neck ,  
the mouth being capable of revolving about an axis of the neck, and  
an actuator for actuating a mechanism to revolve the mouth about the axis  
of the neck,  
whereby when the mouth is in the capturing position, revolution of the  
mouth captures an article from the top of the articles, and when the mouth is rotated to  
the dispensing position the article is dispensed through the neck and the dispensing  
conduit.
2. The vending machine of claim 1 wherein the dispensing chute is in  
communication with the neck through a dispensing conduit.
3. The vending machine of claim 2 wherein the neck is engaged to the  
dispensing conduit in telescoping relation.
4. The vending machine of claim 3 wherein the neck is supported in the  
product bin to reduce its effective weight.
5. The vending machine of claim 4 wherein the neck is suspended from a  
cable.
6. The vending machine of claim 5 wherein the cable is affixed to at least one  
counterweight.

7. The vending machine of claim 2 wherein the dispensing chute has an open end in communication with an access door, the door having at least one arm affixed to the dispensing chute such that as the door is opened the dispensing chute is raised from a rest position to a dispensing position.
8. The vending machine of claim 7 wherein the dispensing conduit is provided with a flap movable between open and closed positions, the flap overlapping a closed end of the dispensing chute, whereby when the door is opened and the dispensing chute is raised to the dispensing position the flap closes.
9. The vending machine of claim 8 wherein an article falling through the dispensing conduit and opening the flap releases a clutch to disengage the actuator from the mechanism and prevent the user from revolving the mouth.
10. The vending machine of claim 1 comprising a finger mounted so as to block the mouth in the capturing position and allow an article to pass into the mouth in a dispensing position.
11. The vending machine of claim 1 wherein the actuator is enabled when coin or token is deposited into a coin mechanism.
12. The vending machine of claim 1 wherein separate actuators are provided for enabling the revolving mechanism and for moving the mouth to the dispensing position.
13. A method of vending an article in a bulk vender comprising a product bin for storing articles disposed above a secure compartment, a mouth in communication with a neck in communication with a dispensing chute accessible to a user, the mouth being movable substantially vertically within the product bin and rotatable between a capturing position in which the mouth is in communication with articles in the product bin and a dispensing position in which the mouth is in communication with the neck but not the articles in the product bin, comprising the steps of:
  - a. moving the mouth to the capturing position ;

- b. enabling a revolving mechanism and revolving the mouth about the product bin to capture at least one article;
- c. moving the mouth to the dispensing position, such that the captured article is dispensed through the neck into the dispensing chute; and
- d. preventing further revolution of the mouth after the captured article has been dispensed until the revolving mechanism is enabled.

14. The method of claim 13 including in step a. the substep of interrupting communication between the neck and the mouth when the mouth is moved to the capturing position.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the revolving mechanism is enabled by inserting a coin or token into a coin mechanism.

16. The method of claim 15 including the step of supporting the neck in the product bin to reduce its effective weight.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein separate actuators are provided for enabling the revolving mechanism and for moving the mouth to the dispensing position.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the dispensing chute has an open end in communication with an access door, including the step of raising the dispensing chute from a rest position to a dispensing position when the door is opened.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein a flap movable between open and closed positions is provided to interrupt communication between the neck and the dispensing chute, including the step of closing the flap when the dispensing chute is raised to the dispensing position.

20. The method of claim 13 including the step of blocking an opening to the neck in the capturing position so that an article can be captured by the mouth but not conveyed to the neck for dispensing until the mouth is rotated to the dispensing position.